

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): A polyester multifilament yarn in the form of a woven or knitted fabric, comprising, as a principal component, a polyethylene terephthalate polymer produced by polycondensing terephthalate diester of ethylene glycol in the presence of a catalyst,

wherein

the catalyst comprises a mixture of a titanium compound component (A) with a phosphorus compound component (B), wherein the component (A) comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of (a) titanium alkoxides represented by the general formula (I):



in which formula (I), R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 respectively and independently from each other represent a member selected from alkyl groups having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and a phenyl group, m represents an integer of 1 to 4, and when m represents an integer of 2, 3 or 4, the 2, 3 or 4 R^2 's and R^3 's may be respectively the same as each other or different from each other, and (b) reaction

products of the titanium compounds of the general formula (I) with aromatic polycarboxylic acids represented by the formula (II):



in which formula (II), n represents an integer of 2 to 4, or anhydrides of the acids of the formula (II); and

the component (B) comprises at least one phosphorus compound represented by the general formula (III):



in which formula (III), R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ respectively and independently from each other represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, X represents a member selected from a -CH₂- group and a -CH(Y)- group wherein Y represents a phenyl group,

the mixture for the catalyst for the polycondensation being employed in an amount satisfying the requirements represented by the following expressions of relation (i) and (ii):

$$1 \leq M_P/M_{Ti} \leq 15 \quad (i)$$

and

$$10 \leq M_P + M_{Ti} \leq 100 \quad (ii)$$

wherein M_{Ti} represents a ratio in % of a value in millimoles of titanium element contained in the titanium compound component (A) to a value in moles of the aromatic dicarboxylate ester, and M_P represents a ratio in % of a value in millimoles of phosphorus element contained in the

phosphorus compound component (B) to the value in moles of the aromatic dicarboxylate ester, and

the polyester multifilament yarn has a thickness of individual filaments of 0.3 to 2.0 dtex, a total thickness of the yarn of 90 dtex or less, and a silk factor (S.F.) value of 22 or more, determined in accordance with the following equation (1):

$$(S.F.) = (\text{Tensile strength}) \times (\text{Ultimate elongation})^{1/2} \quad (1),$$

the tensile strength of the polyester multifilament yarn being in the range of from 4.7 to 7 cN/dtex.

8. (previously presented): The polyester multifilament yarn as claimed in claim 7, wherein in the component (A) of the mixture for the catalyst, a reaction molar ratio of titanium alkoxide (a) to the aromatic polycarboxylic acid of the general formula (II) or the anhydride thereof is in the range of from 2:1 to 2:5.

9. (previously presented): The polyester multifilament yarn as claimed in claim 7, wherein the dialkyl aromatic dicarboxylate ester is one produced by a transesterification reaction of a dialkyl ester of an aromatic dicarboxylic acid with an alkylene glycol.

10. (previously presented): The polyester multifilament yarn as claimed in claim 9, wherein the aromatic dicarboxylic acid is selected from terephthalic acid, 1,2-naphthalene dicarboxylic acid, phthalic acid, isophthalic acid, diphenyldicarboxylic acid and diphenoxyethane dicarboxylic acid and the alkylene glycol is selected from ethylene glycol,

butylene glycol, trimethylene glycol, propylene glycol, neopentyl glycol, hexamethylene glycol and dodecamethylene glycol.

11. (previously presented): The polyester multifilament yarn as claimed in claim 7, wherein the polyester is a polyethylene terephthalate.

12. (previously presented): The polyester multifilament yarn as claimed in claim 7, wherein the polyester polymer has an L^* value of 60 to 90 and a b^* value of 1 to 10, determined in accordance with the $L^*a^*b^*$ color specification of JIS Z 8729.